

4-12-94 Minutes

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m., April 12, 1994.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Councilman Payton M. Otey; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Vice Mayor James A. Vest.

Members absent: Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on March 22, 1994, were approved as distributed.

Vice Mayor Vest reported that representatives of the Division of Tourism visited Bedford on April 8 as the final step in the accreditation process.

Councilman Otey thanked Vice Mayor Vest for opening the meeting with the students at the Middle School last week. Local Government Day will be on May 11, with the students shadowing department heads on May 10.

Councilman Rice asked when City forces will complete the brush pickup. Director of Public Works Gibson indicated that storm-related brush pickup will end on April 27.

Councilman Brookshier suggested that Council schedule a trip to look at sub-standard housing in the City. Mayor Shelton suggested that this occur after the budgeting process is completed.

Mayor Shelton stated that a letter from the County Administrator has been received requesting Council to meet with the Bedford County Board of Supervisors on April 28 to begin discussions on consolidation. The Mayor stated that he has asked the City Manager to meet with the County Administrator to prepare a structured agenda for the joint meeting.

The City Manager suggested that a presentation be made at the joint meeting by Mr. Ed Plunkett, Attorney, who was involved in the Allegheny/Covington/and Clifton Forge consolidation.

Discussion ensued regarding having the joint meeting on April 19 if this is suitable with the Board of Supervisors. The Mayor suggested that the joint meeting be held in the Bedford County Circuit Court Room at 7:30 p.m.

City Manager Gross stated that Council had received a letter from Sue Gilbert, President of Christmas in April of Bedford, Inc., requesting that Council authorize the waiving of building permit fees in connection with the group's four scheduled projects within the city, as well as any landfill tipping fees that might be

applicable. Christmas in April is a volunteer, non-profit organization committed to helping home owners who are either financially or physically unable to repair or refurbish their homes by their own means.

The City Manager indicated that the estimated cost for materials for the projects within the city is \$7,500; the permit fees would amount to \$30.30. The staff is recommending the waiving of the fees; however, permits should be required for both zoning and building code purposes. In addition, it should be understood that any removal of asbestos must be done under EPA guidelines.

On motion by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilman Otey, voted upon and carried, Council waived the building permit fees and the landfill tipping fees for the projects to be undertaken by Christmas in April of Bedford, Inc.

Council held a work session regarding the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget and the requests for special funding for Fiscal Year 1994-95.

Department heads presented their CIP budget requests to Council. The total proposed FY 1994-95 CIP budget is \$750,000.

Discussion ensued regarding the requests for special funding.

Council concurred in level funding for all organizations requesting special funding and that any further justifications for increases be submitted in writing by those organizations affected. It was the consensus of Council to include funds in the amount of \$5,467 for a van for the Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging.

Discussion ensued regarding setting funds aside for wiring the Bedford Elementary School for emergency operations.

The City Manager will report back at the next meeting regarding wiring the school.

The City Manager gave Council a memorandum regarding possible reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a result of the ice storm of February 8-12, 1994.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.